

# WCGS NEWS

Volume XI, No. 3

March 2000

## Census – then and now

**Special document display to feature 1790 census page**  
On March 17, in honor of the 21<sup>st</sup> Census, the National Archives in Washington, DC will display a page from the 1790 census (the nation's first) showing the name of revolutionary war hero Paul Revere. The special document display will be in the Rotunda of the National Archives Building through April 9.

Every 10 years since 1790, as required by the Constitution, the federal government takes a census of the American population. This decennial population count is the basis for apportioning each state's representation in the House of Representatives. April 1, 2000 is Census Day and marks the beginning of Census 2000, the 21<sup>st</sup> federal census. The U. S. Census Bureau expects to deliver more than 120 million census questionnaires to households in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, plus 1.6 million in United States territories.

The document displayed in Washington will be a page from the Boston, MA 1790 census, featuring Paul Revere in the middle column. The 1790 census

*continued on page 2*

## Ireland's Bluebeard

Lemeneagh Castle is a 17th century building with mullioned and transomed windows built on a 15th century tower. It stands on rising ground, outlined dramatically against the sky. This was once the home of Maire Rua (Mary of the Red Hair), reputedly Ireland's Bluebeard, an ugly woman who had no compunction about punishing her servants by hanging them from their hair for half an hour from the castle gargoyles.

Her husband, Conor O'Brien, was mortally wounded by the English in 1651. When stretcher-bearers brought him home, the fearsome Maire at first refused to admit them, bellowing from the ramparts, "We have no room here for dead men!" Persuaded that he was still alive, she finally allowed him in and nursed him until he died in the early hours. Then, his body barely cold, she rode off to Limerick where she offered to marry an English officer. She believed that by marrying a Protestant she could preserve her castle and lands for her son. A bold Cromwellian cornet called John Cooper took up her offer, but not long afterwards, as Maire helped him shave, the razor somehow slipped. She then married another Englishman, who was careless enough to stroll with her on the castle ramparts. Somehow, he fell to his death.

A third English husband accepted an invitation from Maire to ride her charger along the Cliffs of Moher. At a whistle from Maire, the horse raised itself on its hind legs and down into the Atlantic went the unfortunate man. Local tradition has it that Maire married 25 husbands in total, all of whom seemed to meet a violent fate. She got her comeuppance, however, when she evicted a poor widow from her cottage. Bent on revenge, the woman made her way to a group of "cursing stones" (a feature of that part of Clare) and, turning towards the castle, cursed Maire that she "may die roaring with legs in the air." A little later, when Maire was out hunting, her horse took fright and threw her into a hollow tree, where she ended up head down and legs in the air. When they found her, she was dead. AntiqueWeek – Mon., Feb. 28, 2000 8B [The Celtic Knot, Sept. 1999]

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asked five questions: the number of free white males over 16 years old, free white males under 16, free white females, other and number of slaves. (Genealogy Week [*AntiqueWeek*] Mon., March 6, 2000) wqgs



*James Edward Stanley Chesson and son, Norwood Hampton Chesson (b. 17 October 1914; d. 25 January 1973.). James Edward (son of James) was born in Washington Co., N. C. 20 July 1856; died 16 Nov. 1938, Washington, Beaufort Co., NC. Chesson m. 1<sup>st</sup> Laura Cherry; 2<sup>nd</sup> Narcissus Perry, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annie Vineyard Lilley.*

### Queries

Q: Need information on my great-grandfather, Wm. Joseph Paramore, married Nancy Sitterson. William left Plymouth, NC, in 1901 and worked in the coal mines in Alabama. Lost touch after 1902. Jo DeBusschere, 53219 Pimpernil Lane, Chesterfield Twp, MI 48051

Q: (See Herrington, Feb. Issue)

A: Jesse Herrington, born circa 1809, Beaufort Co., NC, married 1<sup>st</sup> ? Hawkins, son Joseph; m. 2<sup>nd</sup> Elizabeth Etheridge, Tyrrell Co., bond 9 Sept. 1847; had six or more children by her. Jesse had a sister who married a Long. Jesse's sister, Sarah, married William Alfred Everett. Jesse came to Washington Co. before 1850 and was involved in a shipyard in Plymouth with the Kissam family (came from N. Y.) and William Alfred Everett. Jesse's first land was on the road from Plymouth to Washington. The Plymouth Township cemeteries do not show a cemetery. By 1870, the family was living two miles east of Roper in Lee's Mill Township. I do not have a listing for Lees Mill. Jesse died before 1870.

George Herrington, possibly a brother of Jesse Herrington. Wedding was performed at home of Thomas Long; Jesse had a brother-in-law named Long.

Family # 729, 1860 U. S. Census, Washington Co., N. C.: Jesse Herington, age 51, male, ship's carpenter; Elizabeth Herrington, age 36; Joseph S., 17; John W. 8; Nathan, 6; Mary age 5; Ephriam L., age 3; Stephen, age 1; Wadding Jones, age 40, male mulatto, waterman.

Lees Mill Township, Washington Co., N. C., 1870 census: # 1 - Elizabeth Herrington, age 45, keeping house; John, age 18, at home; Natham age 16; Mary age 13, Stephen 15; Frances 8 and Jessy age 7.

Washington Co., N. C. Office Register of Deeds; Number 512: 20<sup>th</sup> December 1887: John N. Padgett of Martin County, N. C., age 27, son of John Padgett and Nancy J. Padgett, (both deceased) resident of Martin Co., N. C., married Emma E. Herrington, age 18, of Washington Co., N. C., daughter of George Herrington and Mary E. Herrington, (father living, mother dead) resident of Washington Co., N. C. Married by J. T. Rowe, Primitive Baptist minister on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of December 1887 at the residence of Thomas Long in Plymouth Township. Witnesses were J. G. Latham, David Robertson? J. A. Harison. Padget died 26 October 1919 at the county poor house. Vernon L. Everett, Jr. wqgs

## Meeting News:

- ❖ A scrapbook was started during the tenure of Russell Tyson. Marie Swain has worked diligently to keep the clipping up-to-date. The scrapbook is filled with obituaries and will be available at monthly meetings for members' use. A special thanks goes to Russell, to Barbara Revels, and specially to Marie for all the work that has gone into this work. Marie is heading up the hospitality committee to provide refreshments for our joint April meeting.
- ❖ Gordon Basnight reports the transcription of the 1840 U. S. Census for Washington Co., NC, is almost complete.
- ❖ Barbara Revels has agreed to tackle transcribing items from old issues of the Roanoke Beacon.
- ❖ For the present, WCGS will meet in the Plymouth First FWB Church Fellowship Hall until further notice, with the exception of the April meeting. The church voted to allow the meetings except in the case of funerals or weddings. Later this year, we expect to meet with Tyrrell County on their regularly-scheduled meeting day.
- ❖ Members are asked to "show'n tell" – small family treasures and their related stories.
- ❖ Our April meeting will begin with a social period starting at 2 p.m., followed by introduction of guests. Mr. Dunstan will be introduced by Harry L. Thompson, curator of Port O'Plymouth Museum. Harry says Mr. Dunstan's topic may be researching in Bertie County. After the meeting, publications will be offered for purchase and there'll be time to visit with fellow historians and genealogists. The Washington County Historical Society is planning an event-filled week-end. The entire Living History Week-end will provide an many events of interest to young and old alike.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Living History Week-end

Plymouth NC - April 14-16<sup>th</sup> 2000

### Joint Meeting – WCHS, WCGS & TCG&HS

Episcopal Church Parish House Plymouth NC

16<sup>th</sup> April 2000, 2 p.m. Speaker to be announced.

### Concord Homecoming 2000

Concord Primitive Baptist Church Creswell NC

27<sup>th</sup> May 2000 – 11 a.m. – Speaker: Shirleyan Beacham Phelps - "A Dying Breed – Revisited."

WCGS

### Welcome New Members:

Nelva B. Swinson (Mrs. John Swinson)  
1191 Elwood Holiday Rd  
Jamesville NC 27846

Mr. & Mrs. W. A. Sellers Jr.  
955 Sunset Blvd N W  
Gainesville GA 30501-2733

The Washington County Bicentennial Committee is establishing an endowment / scholarship fund – 100% of the woven throw (\$50), caps, cups, license plates, paper weights, etc., or copies of *Washington County, NC: a Tapestry* (\$50) or one of the few remaining copies of *My Home is Washington County, North Carolina* (\$20), will go directly to that fund. Help provide educational opportunities for Washington County students and ensure that your family has one of each of these items and a copy of both books! Details of the scholarship are being developed and will be published in area newspapers in the very near future.

**MEMBERS' E-MAIL ADDRESSES:**

Gordon L. Basnight

4008 Bingham Drive

Raleigh NC 2614

[gbasnight@mindspring.com](mailto:gbasnight@mindspring.com)

William O. & Mildred Barber, [Ambrose642@cs.com](mailto:Ambrose642@cs.com)

Bill & Chris Barber, [bbarber@coastalnet.com](mailto:bbarber@coastalnet.com)

W. A. (Bill) Sellers, [was2nd@home.com](mailto:was2nd@home.com)

Researching: Spruill, Davenport, Arnold, Ambrose

**Wanted:** Copies of Bible records; information for both the newsletter and the journals; suggestions for future programs; family histories and your queries and the answers received from other researchers. Volunteers to transcribe data.

*Want your genealogy done in a hurry? Run for public office!*

**WCGS Officers:**

**Shirleyan Beacham Phelps**, President & Editor, WCGS News - ([shirleyanphelps@sprintmail.com](mailto:shirleyanphelps@sprintmail.com))

**Carolyn Spruill Phelps**, Vice President  
([carolsp Phelps@coastalnet.com](mailto:carolsp Phelps@coastalnet.com))

**Barbara Modlin Revels**, Recording Secretary

& Chairman, Board of Directors - WCGS

**Lawrence Swain**, Corresponding Secretary

**Vernon L. Everett Jr.**, Treasurer



**16 April 2 p.m.**

**Henry Cullen Dunstan - Speaker**

Grace Episcopal Church – Parrish House

WCGS News  
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P. O. Box 567  
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